

MS24454 | SATB | \$2.50

Allyson Reigh arr. Jennifer McMillan

Commissioned March 2014 by Oran, conductor Kathleen Skinner for Podium 2014 in support of the Don't BE Afraid Campaign.





I first heard this piece in a concert by Oran at PODIUM in Halifax when the singers came out amongst the audience members. The immediate presence of this young alto literally overwhelmed me and took my breath away when she opened herself to honesty and looked me in the eye to sing "Don't Be Afraid." I was compelled to be involved in their singing and this message.

I then had the great pleasure of preparing this piece for the 2015 Texas All State Mixed Choir when again we went out to this massive audience to sing "Don't Be Afraid." It was an extraordinary experience for these young voices to sing into the hearts of parents, teachers, siblings, and friends. In our rehearsal we talked about fear and what makes us afraid. How did I do on the test? Will she say yes to the prom? Will that bully be lurking around this corner too? Why am I ostracized or beaten up because of how I feel, how I look, or who I am? And the adult situations of having to tell the children that their parents are no longer living together, or of the loss of a job or having to share the devastating results of a hard visit to the doctor's office. Is there fear in saying "I love you" for the first time?

The "Don't BE Afraid" message was born out of overwhelming fear. In October 2013, Scott Jones was left paralyzed after being attacked in his hometown of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. In the following weeks, Scott was afraid. His family and friends were afraid. And, his community was afraid. But, instead of dissolving into this fear, Scott chose to emerge with a strong and hopeful message: "Don't BE Afraid." The message became the launching point for the Don't BE Afraid: LGBTQ Awareness Society, a non-profit organization. Don't BE Afraid works to eliminate fear surrounding homophobia and transphobia and promote acceptance for all through honest conversation and creative expression.

I am proud to promote this piece and this cause through MusicSpoke. A healthy percentage of all sales will go to the Don't BE Afraid campaign. Further details about the organization can be found at dontbeafraidcampaign.org or on the Don't BE Afraid Facebook page (facebook.com/dontbeafraidcampaign). It is my hope that as we all continue to grow that we can all live lives free from fear.

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Don't BE Afraid

for SATB chorus, soloist(s), and piano

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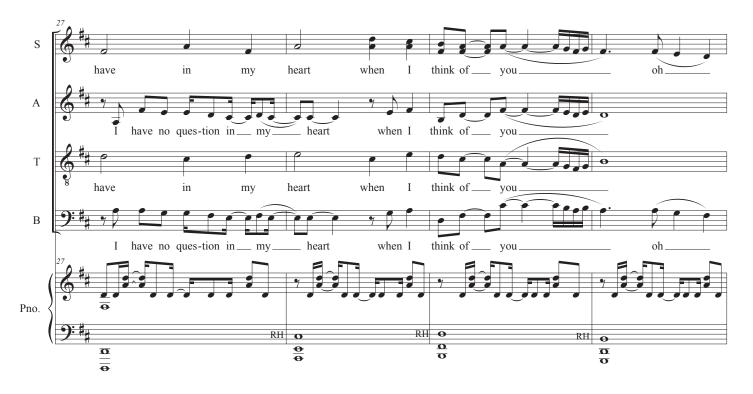


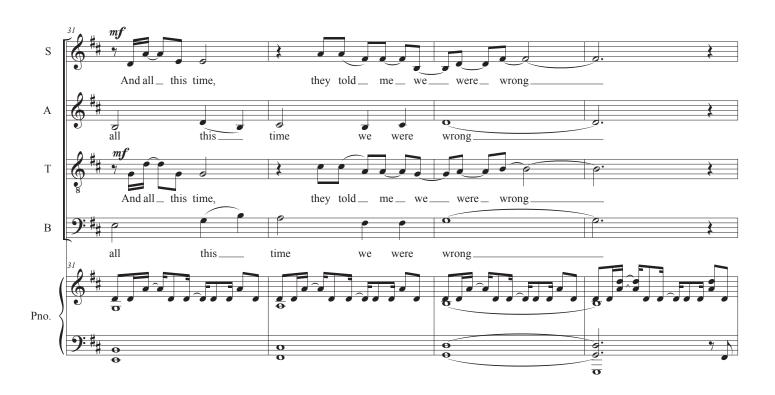








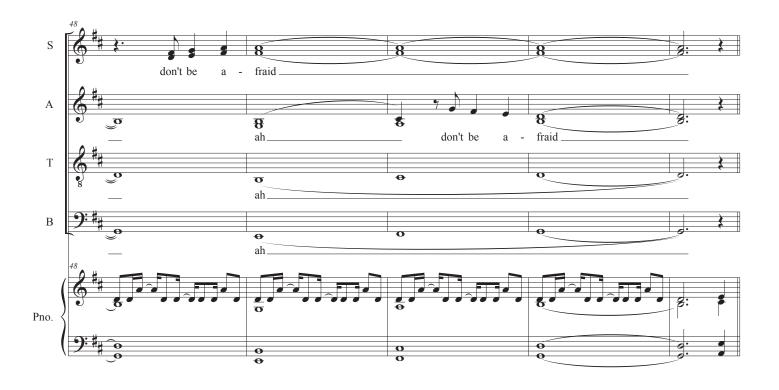




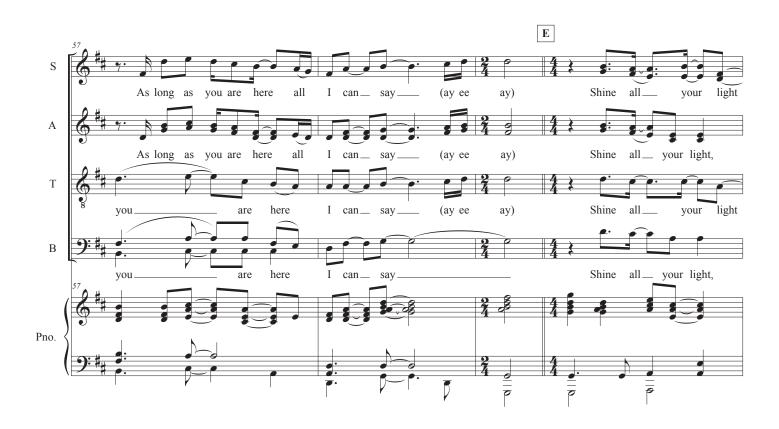




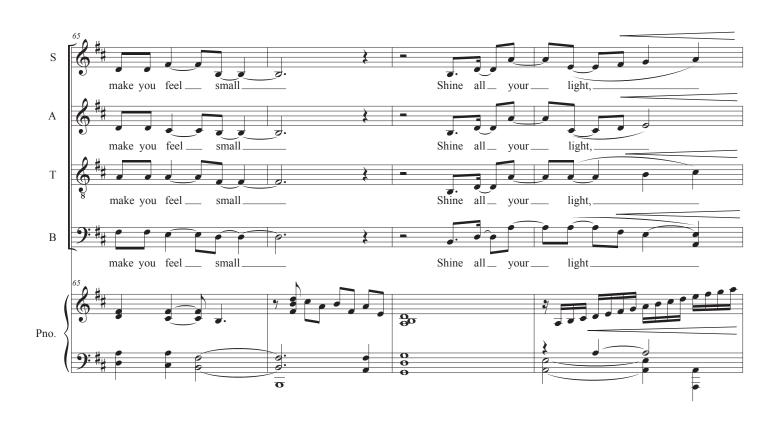








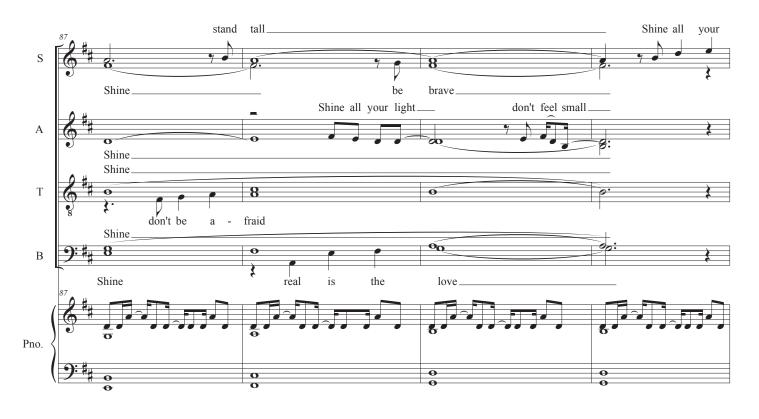


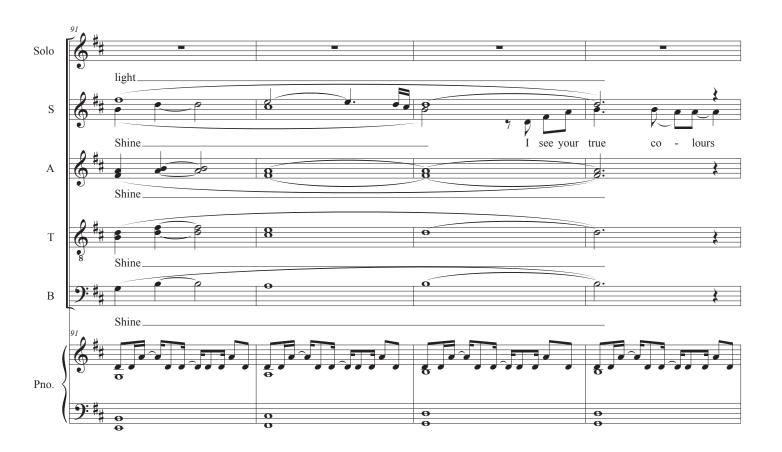














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